

HT 98-002
Serial Number 09/046,007

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-20 and 29-31.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-28 are pending in this application. No claims have been amended. No claims have been allowed.

The title of this application has been amended to provide a title more representative of the claims towards which this application is directed.

The specification is amended at page 16 and page 18 to correct typographic and grammatical errors in the specification.

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Specification

The Examiner has apparently objected to applicant's specification insofar as a cross-reference contained therein to a co-assigned application related to the instant application is incomplete.

In response, applicant has amended applicant's specification at page 19 to provide a complete cross-reference to the related co-assigned application.

In light of the foregoing response, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's apparent objection to applicant's specification be withdrawn.

Election/Restriction

The Examiner has MADE FINAL within this application a restriction requirement under which applicant previously elected with traverse prosecution of claims 21-28.

In response solely to the restriction requirement MADE FINAL, applicant has canceled claims 1-20 and 29-31.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 21-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choukh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,753,131; hereinafter "Choukh") in view of Ravipati et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,739,990; hereinafter "Ravipati") and Watanabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,694,275; hereinafter "Watanabe").

Applicant acknowledges the teachings of Choukh, Ravipati and Watanabe as cited by the Examiner.

In response, applicant asserts that claim 21 may not properly be rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choukh, Ravipati, Watanabe, or any combination thereof, since each and every limitation within applicant's invention as disclosed and claimed within claim 21 is not disclosed within Choukh, Ravipati, Watanabe or any combination thereof.

In that regard, applicant in a first instance notes that within claim 21 applicant claims a method for forming a transversely magnetically biased soft adjacent layer (SAL) magnetoresistive (MR) sensor element comprising a magnetoresistive (MR) layer separated from a soft adjacent layer (SAL) by a dielectric layer, where there is formed contacting a side of the soft adjacent layer (SAL) opposite the dielectric layer a transverse magnetic biasing layer, and wherein at least one of applicant's dielectric layer, magnetoresistive (MR) layer, soft adjacent layer (SAL) and transverse magnetic biasing layer is a patterned layer formed employing an etch mask which serves as a lift-off stencil for forming a patterned second dielectric layer adjoining an

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edge of the patterned layer.

In comparison, applicant notes that the foregoing limitation of applicant's invention is clearly not disclosed within the prior art of record employed in rejecting applicant's claims to applicant's invention since: (1) Choukh (Fig. 13 and related portions of Choukh's disclosure) shows a pair of patterned antiferromagnetic biasing layers 60 and a pair of patterned conductor lead layers 50 formed passivating a pair of edges of Choukh's pertinent stack of patterned layers 20/30/40; (2) Ravipati (Fig. 6A and related portions of Ravipati's disclosure) shows a pair of patterned conductor layers 86/88 formed passivating a pair of edges of Ravipati's pertinent stack of patterned layers 84/82/78/80; and (3) Watanabe (Fig. 5 and related portions of Watanabe's disclosure) shows a pair of patterned chromium substrate layers 6, a pair of patterned cobalt-chromium-tantalum hard bias layers 7 and a pair of patterned chromium conductor lead layers 8 passivating a pair of edges of Watanabe's pertinent stack of patterned layers 1/2/3.

Thus, since each and every limitation within applicant's invention as disclosed and claimed within claim 21 is not disclosed within Choukh, Ravipati, Watanabe or any combination thereof, applicant asserts at minimum that claim 21 may not properly be rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choukh, Ravipati, Watanabe or any combination thereof.

Since all remaining claims within this rejection are dependent upon claim 21 and carry all of the limitation of claim 21, applicant additionally asserts that those remaining claims may also not properly be rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choukh, Ravipati, Watanabe or any combination thereof.

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In light of the foregoing response, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 21-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choukh in view of Ravipati and Watanabe, be withdrawn.

Other Considerations

The Examiner has cited no additional prior of record not employed in rejecting applicant's claims to applicant's invention.

No fee is due as a result of this amendment.

SUMMARY

Applicant's invention as claimed within claim 21 is directed towards a method for forming a transversely magnetically biased soft adjacent layer (SAL) magnetoresistive (MR) sensor element comprising a magnetoresistive (MR) layer separated from a soft adjacent layer (SAL) by a dielectric layer, where there is formed contacting a side of the soft adjacent layer (SAL) opposite the dielectric layer a transverse magnetic biasing layer, and where at least one of the dielectric layer, the magnetoresistive (MR) layer the soft adjacent layer (SAL) and the transverse magnetic biasing layer is a patterned layer formed employing an etch mask which serves as a lift-off stencil for forming a patterned second dielectric layer adjoining an edge of the

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patterned layer. Absent from the prior art of record employed in rejecting applicant's claims to applicant's invention is a disclosure of each and every limitation within applicant's invention as disclosed and claimed within claim 21.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application, and its early allowance, are respectfully requested.

Any inquiries relating to this or earlier communications pertaining to this application may be directed to the undersigned attorney at 914-471-0790 or Mr. George Saile, Esq. (Reg. No. 19,572) at 914-452-5863, at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



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